Clearance of the **reclamation of Saline and Alkaline land project of Karnataka**

1303. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal for reclamation of Saline and Alkaline land to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has since cleared the said proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a)to(c) A proposal for Reclamation of saline and alkaline soils in Karnataka was received from the State Governtmentof Karnataka. In September, 1987 the State Government was requested to send a revised proposal along with additional information. The revised proposal has been received in March, 1989 which is under consideration.

Long terms planning for import of Oil

1304. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are planning any long term measures for import of oils during this year; and if so, Jhe details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): the Government are not planning any long term measures during this year for import of oils. Edible oil is imported to bridge the gap between demand for and domestic production of edible oils on year to year basis and the actual imports are carried out taking into account the availablity and prices of edible oils.

Setting up of sponge **iron plants in** the **country**

1305. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sponge iron plants that have been set up in the country so far (State-wise) both in public and private sector;

(b) whether some private sector companies have submitted fresh proposals for stting up of sponge iron plants;

(c) if so, the States where those private sector companies are intending to set up sponge iron plants; and

(d) the details of the proposals submitted by the private sector companies in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) 5 Sponge Iron Plants have so far been set up in the country, as follows —

Andhra Pradesh	1
Orissa	2
Bihar	1
Maharashtra .	1
TOTAL :	5

(b) Yes, Sir.